

Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 15, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

This week, the Governor signed a two-bill package that addresses the growing FY09 budget deficit by delaying payments to universities, suspending K-12 school payments and using federal stimulus funding. Links to the legislation are provided here:

H2028: http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2028

H2029: http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2029

To read Governor Brewer's statement regarding this action and the FY2010 budget, visit:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_051409_StatementLegUpdate.pdf

At the end of day 124 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session: 1111 bills posted, six (6) passed, six (6) signed and 96 memorials and resolutions posted; one (1) passed.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2091: Charitable Organizations; Solicitations; Disclosures - passed House; ready for Senate, 5/13/09.

H2110: Public Retirement Plans; Federal Changes - passed House; ready for Senate, 5/12/09.

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

S1049: Fingerprint Clearance Cards Senate Public Safety & Human Services Committee, 5/20/09, 10:30 am, Senate Room 3.

H2622: Dependent Children; Relatives; Disclosure - House Rules Committee, 5/18/09, 1:00 pm, House Rm. 4.

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas and *updates to those agendas* at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website **FULL List link** provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.1457

Geriatrics Loan Forgiveness Act of 2009

The Geriatrics Loan Forgiveness Act of 2009 was introduced on March 12, 2009 by Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-3) with six co-sponsors: Representative Ron Klein (D-FL-22), Representative James P. McGovern (D-MA-3), Rep Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, (R-FL-18), Representative Janice D. Schakowsky (D-IL-9), Representative Joe Sestak (D-PA-7) and Representative Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ-4).

The purpose of the Act is to amend the Public Health Service Act to deem certain geriatric health training to be obligated service for purposes of the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

On March 12, 2009, H.R. 1457 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 683

Community Choice Act of 2009

Introduced on March 24, 2009 by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and twenty two cosponsors, S. 683 amends title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to require state Medicaid plan coverage of community-based attendance services and supports for certain Medicaid-eligible individuals. The Act outlines requirements for:

1. an enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for ongoing activities of early coverage states that enhance and promote the use of community-based attendant services and supports.
2. increased federal financial participation for certain expenditures incurred by the state for the provision of such services and supports.

The Community Choice Act of 2009 directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to:

1. award grants to eligible states which have established a Consumer Task Force to assist the state in its development of real choice systems change initiatives.
2. conduct a demonstration project for the purpose of evaluating service coordination and cost-sharing approaches with respect to the provision of community-based services and supports to dually eligible individuals.

On March 24, 2009, the Act was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Note: a related bill, H.R. 1670 was introduced in the House on March 23, 2009 by Representative Danny K. Davis (D-IL-7) and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce that day.

To read the entire text of this legislation, go to the **Thomas** website: <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number (H.R. 1457 or S. 683) at *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:
May is Older Americans Month!

During Older Americans Month - your organization may want to consider becoming a Mature Worker Friendly Certified Employer! Learn more about the certification process and see the list of Arizona certified employers on the **Mature Worker website:**

<http://www.azmatureworkers.com/default.asp?PageID=10007896>

On Monday, the **Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) announced the availability of \$50 million in grants from the Strengthening Communities Fund, a new fund created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, in support of non-profits and faith-based groups.

To find out more information, go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/05/20090511c.html>

WHAT: 2009 Break the Silence Event to End Elder Abuse

WHEN: June 15, 2009, 10 am 12:00 noon, Carnegie Center, 1101 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

For more information and to register:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/BTSFlyerV414.pdf>

According to the **Administration on Aging**, the TV Converter Box Coupon Program rolls out its Mobile Assistance Centers this month, providing consumers with one-on-one assistance in preparing for the end of the digital transition by June 12, 2009. Beginning this month, the traveling vans will visit 28 cities across the country with staff to help consumers apply for coupons and to demonstrate how to hook-up converter boxes. To find out where the mobile centers will be visiting in Arizona, go to: <https://www.dtv2009.gov/Partners.aspx> and click on the Mobile Assistance Centers Tour Schedule.

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration as a resource or event listing, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Be sure to visit the Governor's Office on Aging website at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/aging/>

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging